

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing in opposition of the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. While I understand that the merger will increase video choices for consumers, I believe this merger will do nothing more than create a monopoly over satellite delivered programming. This merger essentially will make the combined company the only real satellite provider and since the costs associated with the business are so great I fear that no reasonable choices will be available to me as a consumer.

Yes, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area, but in areas where cable is not an option or 'over the air' broadcasts cannot be received the only option available will be satellite from the EchoStar-HUGHES system.

Next, on the issue of broadband Internet. I currently have broadband access to the Internet, and the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will likely result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. This is good, but again they will have a monopoly over satellite delivered access, at least until Teledesic launches their service in 2005.

With the amount of effort spent by our government chasing Microsoft for operating as a monopoly I believe that it is irresponsible of our current leaders to allow mergers such as this to take place.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Jacob Jones
37 West 600 North
Orem, UT 84057